

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-70 (Canceled).

71. (Currently Amended) A The method of claim 70 comprising:
transmitting, without consumer selection or using individual consumer preference
information and in compressed time format, a plurality of video programs to a plurality of
consumer locations, wherein the transmitted video programs are encoded with time-based
code keys A, wherein the time-based code keys A encoded into the transmitted video programs
are correlated with periodic time-based code keys B that are blanket transmitted to the plurality of
consumer locations and time-based code keys C that are provided to consumer locations within the
plurality of consumer locations that are in good standing, wherein a consumer customer can only
view a video program if all three code keys A, B and C have been received; and
billing a consumer associated with a consumer location within the plurality of
consumer locations in response to receiving information indicating that a video program from
the plurality of transmitted video programs has been selected for viewing, wherein at least a
portion of the video program has been automatically stored at the consumer location in
response to content preselection.

72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 71 further comprising:
receiving communicating video program playback information from a each consumer
location at to a central controller system when the time-based code keys C are provided to the
consumer location.

73 – 76 (Canceled).

77. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 71.

78. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 72.

79 – 82. (Canceled).

83. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The device of claim 82 further comprising:
a receiving mechanism configured to receive a plurality of video programs transmitted without regard to consumer selection or individual consumer preference information and in compressed time format for automatic storage at a consumer location;
a recording mechanism configured to record said video programs automatically at a consumer location;
a playback mechanism configured to playback recorded video programs upon selection for playback at the consumer location;
a billing mechanism in communication with the playback mechanism configured to transmit billing information to a central billing system to account for each time an automatically stored video program has been selected for playback;
a control mechanism in communication with the receiving mechanism and configured to verify a received combination of time-based code keys for authorizing play-back of said transmitted video programs at a desired time; and
a decoding mechanism in communication with the control mechanism configured to decode transmitted video programs wherein time-based code keys A that are encoded into the transmitted video programs are correlated with periodic time-based code keys B that are blanket transmitted to a plurality of consumer locations and time-based code keys C that are provided to consumer locations within the plurality of consumer locations that are in good standing such that a consumer can only view a video program if all three code keys A, B and C have been received by the playback device.

84. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 83 wherein the billing mechanism comprises:
a mechanism configured to communicate an identity of said video program and a unique identifying address associated with said consumer to said central billing system in response to playback upon initiating play-back of the video program; and

~~a playback enabling mechanism configured to receive from said central billing system the third time based code key for identifying a status of said consumer to enable said play back of said video program.~~

85 - 87. (Canceled)

88. (Currently Amended) A The system of claim 87 comprising:
a mechanism configured to transmit, without regard to consumer selection or individual consumer preference information, a plurality of video programs to a plurality of consumer locations for automatic storage at the consumer locations, wherein the transmitted video programs are encoded with time-based code keys A, wherein the time-based code keys A encoded into the transmitted video programs are correlated with periodic time-based code keys B that are blanket transmitted to the plurality of consumer locations and time-based code keys C that are provided to consumer locations within the plurality of consumer locations that are in good standing, wherein a consumer customer can only view a video program if all three code keys A, B and C have been received; and
a billing mechanism configured to bill a consumer location within the plurality of consumer locations in response to receiving information indicating that an automatically stored video program from the plurality of transmitted video programs has been selected for viewing.

89. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 88 further comprising:
a mechanism configured to communicate video program playback information from each consumer location to a central controller system when the time-based code keys C are provided.

90. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[85]] 88 wherein the mechanism configured to transmit a plurality of video programs is configured to transmit by direct broadcast satellite transmission on multiple channels in compressed-time format.

91. (New) A method comprising:
receiving a transmission of a plurality of video programs, wherein the video programs are transmitted in compressed time format to a plurality of consumer locations without consumer selection or using individual consumer preference information and the video

programs are encoded with time-based code keys A, wherein the time-based code keys A encoded into the transmitted video programs are correlated with periodic time-based code keys B that have been blanket transmitted to the plurality of consumer locations and time-based code keys C that have provided to consumer locations within the plurality of consumer locations that are in good standing, and wherein a consumer can only view a video program if all three code keys A, B and C have been received; and

transmitting billing information to a central controller system at least in part in response to a video program from the plurality of transmitted video programs having been selected for viewing and wherein at least a portion of the video program has been automatically stored at the consumer location in response to content preselection.

92. (New) The method of claim 91 further comprising:

transmitting video program playback information from a consumer location to a central controller system when the time-based code keys C are received at the consumer location.

93. (New) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 91.

94. (New) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 92.